

From article in El Defensor Chieftain, Nov. 17, 1966

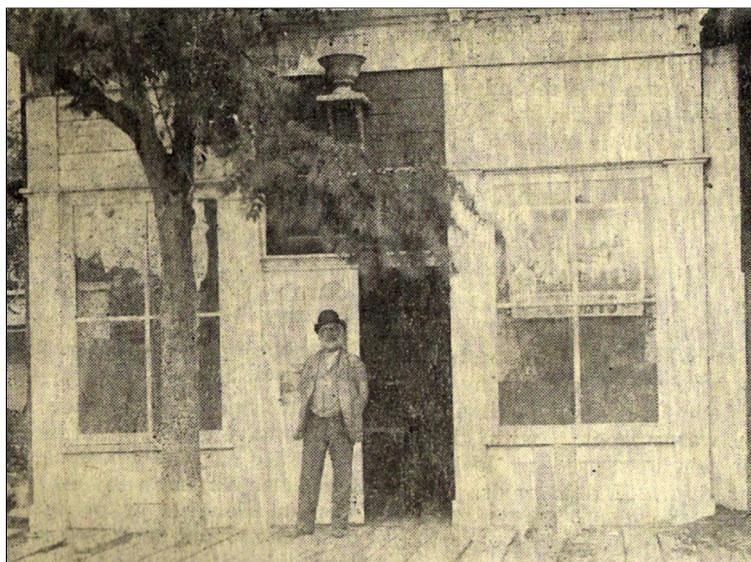
PIONEER PHYSICIAN MADE STUDY OF TUBERCULOSIS
[Kornitzer – Hilton – Olsen – Brown families]

Article in El Defensor Chieftain, Nov. 17, 1966
Transcribed by Paul Harden 2017

In the late 1880's, **Dr. Joseph Kornitzer** brought his wife, who had developed tuberculosis, to Socorro “where the climate is of remarkable salubrity,” he wrote. He made a study of the disease and wrote many articles on the subject which were published nationally.

He was Hungarian by birth and had received his medical degree from the University of Vienna. As a commissioned surgeon-in-chief in the Army he was assigned to a hospital in Moravia where there was a cholera epidemic. He was the first to use the hypodermic treatment in this disease.

Dr. Kornitzer was a well-educated man and versed in many languages. He reared his two daughters with strictness in Socorro and always accompanied them to the balls given at the Garcia Opera House. Under his tutelage, both [daughters] **Emily** and **Anna** learned French, German, and Spanish.



Dr. Joseph Kornitzer was one of the pioneer doctors in Socorro. Shown here standing at his doctor's office and pharmacy – located in the Park Hotel.

*(Image scanned from 1966 El Defensor Chieftain newspaper)
From the Del Curto family collections*

Emily Kornitzer married **J. H. Hilton** who became a merchant. The states began passing laws which required pharmacies to have registered pharmacists. When New Mexico took this step Dr. Kornitzer bought out **Dr. T. A. Davis** and later turned it over to his married daughter to run after she had managed to study to be a licensed pharmacist despite her growing family. It became the **Hilton Pharmacy** officially in 1898.

In October 1940 Mrs. Hilton was the subject of an article in a national pharmacy magazine as “the oldest active pharmacist in the United States.” Even then, she did not retire until a few years before her death in 1961. Both the Hilton sons, **Joe J.** and **Robert K.**, became doctors. The Hilton's daughter, **Mrs. Harold Olsen**, studied pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin and became a licensed pharmacist like her mother.

The Olsens took over the Hilton Pharmacy in 1934. **Harold Olsen** was a graduate mining engineer from the School of Mines but in assuming the management of the pharmacy began studying the profession to become like his wife, a registered pharmacist. For many years the Olsens had the pharmacy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Olsen are well-known civic leaders, Olsen serving many terms as city councilman, a position he still hold [in 1966 – PH].

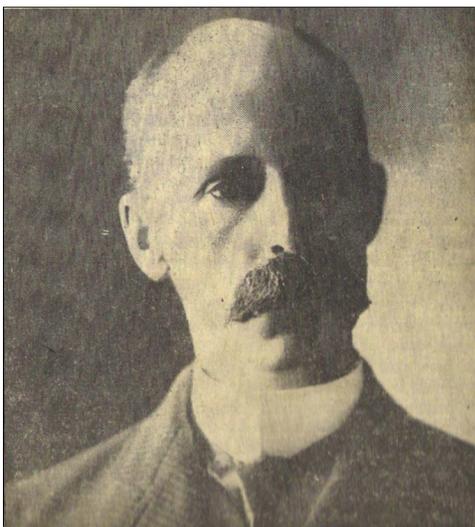
Dr. Kornitzer's other daughter, **Anna K. Brown**, was also a gifted woman whose name is synonymous with the founding and development of the **Socorro Public Library**. She married **Coney T. Brown** who had come to the territory from aine, arriving at dusk in Socorro New Year's Day, 1879. Their son, **T. C. Brown** [Tom C. Brown], and his wife, **Judy**, live in the family home on East Abeytia Street.

[**Coney T. Brown**] became a consultant mining engineer for the **Empire Zinc Co.** of New Jersey and discovered several locations of zinc carbonite for the company. The Brown collection of rare rocks was given by the family to the New Mexico Tech collection. **Brown Hall** is named after C. T. Brown.

Another son, now deceased, was **Coney C. Brown**, who married **Felice Hilton**, the sister of **Conrad Hilton**. Tom Brown followed in his father's footsteps and became a graduate engineer. For a few years he traveled extensively, but like his father, he decided that Socorro would be his permanent home.

Tom Brown recalls when his mother and Mrs. Rene Engel, the wife of a professor with the School of Mines, decided to start a library in Socorro. The two women went to infinite pains to clear out a large room in one of the buildings on Manzanares where they brought over a large supply and tea delicacies and many teacups, for they had invited all the women in town to the occasion. Nobody came. Mrs. Engel was on the verge of tears. Not Anna K. [Brown] who firmly told her, “It takes a little time.” For Anna K. Brown, it was a lifetime of service to Socorro.

The Socorro Public Library was opened by the WAAIME on Dec. 16, 1924, in the Shakespeare Building on East Manzanares Avenue.



Coney T. Brown

*(Image scanned from 1966 El Defensor Chieftain)
Olsen collection*



Tom C. Brown

Mayor of Socorro 1928-1930
Paul Harden photo